

overall inferior healthcare compared to whites. What's more, blacks are more likely to fall victim to a justice system that prioritizes punitive criminalization over rehabilitation. Our children are victims of inadequate educational systems and African Americans receive lower incomes than others in our country with similar experience. Lastly, HIV/AIDS, a disease that has taken the lives of millions of men, women and children around the world is most rampant in the black community with the majority of new infections occurring in young African American women.

So while America takes time to commemorate this historic day, we must also recognize that there is much more to be done both here and abroad. African Americans in this country know first hand the travesties of slavery. As such, we must lead the way for others to achieve their own freedom.

According to the International Labor Organization, between 12 and 27 million people are the victims of forced labor worldwide. The majority of these men, women and children come from the poor and rural parts of countries that are in the midst of war, unstable economies, and political conflict. Whether forcibly removed or lured by false promises of opportunity, millions of the most desperate and vulnerable populations of the world are forced to work without pay in the agricultural, textile, service and sex industries under the constant threat of violence or death.

Haiti was once hailed as one of the most profitable colonies in the Caribbean and was the first black led republic in modern history. Home to the most successful African slave rebellions in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is now the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and is plagued by poverty, political unrest, hunger, disease and violence. Now, more than two hundred years after Haiti was declared a free republic, between 90,000 and 300,000 Haitian children alone are trafficked into areas where they are forced into slavery. Even right here in the U.S., despite our system of laws, an estimated 20,000 people are trafficked into our country from all over the world to provide unpaid labor and services.

The fact that our brothers and sisters to the south are enduring such conditions is unconscionable. We must support Haitians in their attempt to achieve sustainable development and restore dignity and socioeconomic stability to their proud nation. As the leader of the free world, we can and must do better to stop this and other injustices.

Historian and Columbia Professor, Manning Marable wrote, "Historical amnesia blocks the construction of potentially successful social movements." As we continue to fight for equality and justice in our communities and in Congress, we have a responsibility to ensure that our nation, particularly our young people, do not fall victim to historical amnesia.

Because so many years have passed, many forget or dismiss the role that slavery and the fight for emancipation and racial equality played in constructing the social fabric of this country. Thankfully, this problem is entirely remediable, and we can engender a new commitment to understanding our past to build a better future.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Juneteenth, I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in reflecting on how our country has evolved into a nation that understands the importance of protecting the rights, liberties and

privileges of all people. America has bettered itself by improving the lives of its citizens and people in the rest of the world. It is imperative that we continue our uniquely American tradition of fighting for equality and justice in our country and abroad.

HONORING BARBARA IDE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Barbara Ide of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Barbara has been chosen to receive the St. Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1969, Barbara Ide became involved in historic preservation to preserve the cityscape of St. Joseph. Among the many buildings she helped preserve were downtown St. Joseph's crown jewel—the Buchanan County Court House, the city founder's Robidoux Row, Patee Hall, Warehouse Row, and the Hall Street Historic District. Barbara first became involved in historic preservation when St. Joseph's Federal urban renewal program proposed demolishing over half of the historic downtown. The National Trust for Historic Preservation took notice of Barbara's efforts and in the early 1970s invited her to address its National Convention to present preservation lessons learned in St. Joseph. Her speech was later reprinted in a National Trust's publication.

After purchasing Robidoux Row, she developed and chaired the highly successful Robidoux Festival which ran for several years. As a founding board member and the first president of the not-for-profit St. Joseph Preservation, Inc., she established a revolving fund through historic property donations and attracted a membership of over 200.

In addition to preserving the historic cityscape of St. Joseph, Barbara has contributed to the city's social fabric. Moving to St. Joseph in 1948, she became an integral part of the community leading by example. Over the years, Barbara has served as an active member (often on the board or as president) of numerous organizations like the Runcie Club, PEO, St. Joseph Historical Society, the First Presbyterian Church, Questors, and the Junior League.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Barbara Ide. She has come to be one of the most outstanding members of our community and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MICHAEL T. MOSELEY

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to express my appreciation to a fine public servant and military officer, former Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael T. Moseley who recently resigned on orders from the Secretary of Defense.

There are a few lingering questions regarding the scope and unfortunate timing of this unprecedented decision to dismiss both top Air Force leaders at the same time only days before the Government Accountability Office (GAO) was scheduled to issue its decision in the hotly contested \$40 billion tanker program. The dismissals also come during a time of war and great stresses on Air Force personnel. No one will argue that it is not within Secretary Gates' authority to take that drastic and unprecedented action even if some of us question whether or not it was really the right thing to do given the totality of circumstances. Every military and civilian officer knows that they serve at the pleasure of the President and that they stand to be dismissed for any reason whatsoever. As professional leaders, General Moseley and former Secretary Wynne accepted that fact.

Unfortunately, the entire record of their decades of public service, notable achievements, and personal sacrifices for our country, are at risk of being lost or pushed aside due to media focus of these recent headline-grabbing events. And I regret that a handful of individuals, including Members of Congress, may be tempted to seize upon Secretary Gates' action to somehow legitimize unrelated claims in areas of disagreement with these two Air Force leaders. That would be patently unfair and unjust, and I feel an obligation to remind us all of a few points.

With particular regard to General Michael T. Moseley, it would be hard to find a more competent and experienced Air Force Chief since the service's inception over 60 years ago. Having entered the Air Force in 1971, he rose quickly through the ranks and his competency as a top F-15 pilot led him to command responsibilities at the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School. In addition to other command responsibilities in different parts of the world, General Moseley served as the combat Director of Operations for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia. Like no other Air Force Chief in a generation, General Moseley demonstrated that he knew how to command air power during combat operations. Between 2001 and 2004, he served in combat, having commanded coalition air forces in Afghanistan and Iraq that employed greater precision and air-ground coordination than ever before. With advanced post graduate degrees as well, he is regarded by many as a military scholar and historian, which has given him a level of rounded perspective that has benefited the Air Force.

He served as both Vice-Chief and Chief of the Air Force during very tumultuous times in the Air Force. He became Vice Chief in 2004, and confronted with extremely challenging budget and personnel cuts posed by the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), and still additional cuts mandated by the Administration, General Moseley helped to steer the Air Force through some very tough times. In so doing, and to his great credit, he always put the airmen and their families first. He recognized that our Nation unwisely took a "holiday from history" in the 1990s by delaying and deferring aircraft modernization, and as a result, our pilots are having to fly aircraft that are on average nearly 40 years old. We have F-15's literally flying apart in the air due to age and corrosion. We have F-16s that are nearing the end of their service-life. We have 40-year-old tankers, and 50-year-old bombers.

We have third-world nations that are fielding fighters that are, or soon will be—peers to our fourth-generation fighters. At the same time, our Administration has not been as committed to recapitalizing our fighter fleet with the F-22 and F-35 in the numbers necessary to meet validated military requirements as it should be. The Nation has taken for granted our traditional air superiority. General Moseley was right to have pointed out these vulnerabilities.

We never know in advance where our next adversary will spring from and what the origins of conflict will be. We must be prepared and strong across the full spectrum of air based threats, from both asymmetric threats and resurgent adversarial nations. General Moseley understood this very well.

Even as military operations continue in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force is called upon around-the-clock to undertake combat operations, and targeted air strikes, or to fly troops and cargo in and out of theatre, or provide intelligence platforms, and the list goes on and on.

Our ground forces have come to rely on our United States Air Force mainly because—they're so capable! That's no accident. General Moseley understood this, because he was there, actually commanding airmen in fighting operations!

It's because of visionary leaders like General Moseley that the Air Force is reliable. It takes almost 20 years to develop, test and field a new advanced weapons system like the F-22 and F-35. If we take more "holidays from history," then we leave our Nation and future generations at great risk of falling behind the technology curve.

In 1938, U.S. defense planners considered the venerable P-51 (Mustang) fighter aircraft too insignificant for full funding and production to replace the more vulnerable P-38 Lightning aircraft. Once World War II was underway, it took the U.S. a few years to ramp-up production of the P-51 in sufficient numbers so that it could be useful in Europe to establish air superiority against the Germans. Back then, we were able to recover the shortfall over a few years' time. In these modern times with technology development increasing at exponential rates throughout many third-world and hostile nations, we no longer have that luxury.

Just like we're learning with the sky-rocketing costs of oil and gasoline—even if we were to immediately increase U.S. domestic production of oil resources, you can't just turn the spigot on tomorrow and have the oil flow. It takes years to do that, just as it does in the weapons procurement world. General Moseley understood this and was it forceful and persuasive advocate for modernization. This advocacy is something which, though he was absolutely correct on the facts and merits—earned him criticism when he should have found support.

General Moseley was also forward-thinking in recognizing the seriousness of the military and national security implications posed by the growing cyber security threat. His leadership resulted in the launching of the Air Force's Cyber command initiative. More than any other military department or agency of the federal government, Moseley did more than just wring his hands about the threat. He took concrete actions to demonstrate that he recognized its seriousness. He should be commended for that vision. He oversaw the dramatically-successful and historic deployment

of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in combat, and also instituted training to help instill a "warrior ethos" through training in hand-to-hand combat, survival and evasion skills required by the types of conflicts demonstrated in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am proud of General Moseley—that his sense of responsibility to the Air Force's overall mission led him to voice legitimate concerns on matters like the serious deficiencies in Aircraft Modernization with Congress, even at risk of his career. To me, that is real integrity. When we have hearings on the Armed Services Committee, what we're after is the real truth—unvarnished and unblinking. We're not looking for the sanitized version of the truth.

The Secretary of Defense cited a failure of leadership within the Air Force with regard to its nuclear mission. Those are, indeed, serious charges and certainly corrections within the Air Force as to procedures must continue to be made. But I want to point out that many of the systemic problems in the nuclear area mentioned in the Admiral's report are not General Moseley or Secretary Wynne's fault. The Department of Defense and the Administration share in the responsibility for the impacts of both Budget cuts and BRAC mandated targets of the past. Those cuts clearly de-funded and de-emphasized nuclear matters. Cuts in the ICBM modernization budgets and programs that were not necessarily the Air Force's preferred choice have also taken a toll in these recent incidents, and those budget cut impacts must also be acknowledged and corrected by this and future Secretaries if we are truly going to address shortfalls in nuclear surety matters. I know first-hand because during my six years in Congress, I have had to request that funding be added to the budget to cover documented shortfalls in Minuteman III modernization programs.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I want to conclude by thanking General Michael Moseley and Secretary Mike Wynne for their dedicated public service to our nation and our fighting men and women. From where I sit as a Member of the Armed Services Committee, I believe that both of these Air Force leaders can hold their heads high. I believe they are men of great personal integrity. I wish them both well in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 1237, a resolution recognizing the importance of the Juneteenth anniversary celebrations held nationwide on June 19th. On that date 145 years ago, Union forces led by General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas, bringing news of the Confederate surrender and enforcing, after two-and-half long years, the Emancipation Proclamation. Americans across the country commemorate this day with celebrations, discussions, and family picnics. In my own state of New Jersey, Juneteenth is celebrated at churches, community centers, and family gath-

erings across the state. This day marks a time for people to come together, enjoy the company of friends and family, and reflect on the past. It is a time of somber tribute to the struggles of slavery conjoined with a cheerful and celebratory attitude towards the future and the opportunities afforded by that great proclamation.

I strongly support H. Res. 1237, which recognizes the significance of the Juneteenth anniversary and proclaims the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future. I rise to honor the celebration, and to honor the myriad contributions that African-Americans have made to American society and culture in the years before and since. African-Americans have honored this country with their service and dedication as inventors, teachers, artists, musicians, first responders, soldiers, doctors, and statesmen and countless other professions. They rose from the bonds of servitude and yet, facing discrimination at every step, have continued to persevere. The longevity of the Juneteenth celebration is an enduring testament to the strength of these Americans in the face of tremendous adversity and bears witness to the virtue of celebrating diversity.

I must also rise today to recognize the obstacles that still face us. Juneteenth evokes reflection on a dark chapter in our Nation's history, and reinforces that which we already know: the struggle for equality is far from over. The joyous celebration of the emancipation of the slaves of Galveston, followed by decades of inequality under Jim Crow, serves to remind us all of the need to remain committed to our original principles and the belief in liberty and justice for all. While our history has at times failed to live up to these founding ideals, it is important that we remember our past. So that we may better ourselves and our country, we must bear closely the lessons of history as we strive for progress.

Today, Juneteenth is the longest-running celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. Its durability alone illustrates its significance. For that reason, Madam Speaker, and for all the reasons above, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 1237.

HONORING CBIZ INSURANCE SERVICES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc. of St. Joseph, Missouri. This business has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Employer of Excellence.

CBIZ has been giving back to St. Joseph for 100 years by supporting nonprofits such as United Way, UCP, YWCA, YMCA, Sertoma, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts through volunteerism and fundraising. CBIZ is also involved in a "Dress for Success" initiative, which will help provide business attire to women trying to enter or advance in the business world. This program will include partnering with nonprofits that currently assist with clothing needs in our community.